

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 17, and 18 have been amended, and claim 8 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. The claim amendments are supported by the specification of the present application, with no new matter being added. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

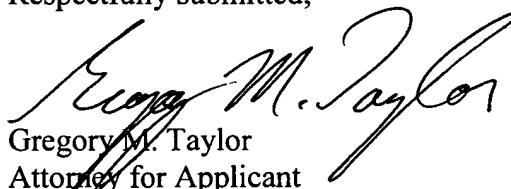
Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,685.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 such that they and the respective claims dependent therefrom are no longer coextensive in scope with the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,685. Thus, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for double patenting be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the application, which could be clarified in a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 19th day of November 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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